

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KARACH 02315 140719Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 /063 W
-----140721Z 128089 /11

O 140649Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1777

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KARACHI 2315

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PK, PINT

SUBJECT: SECURITY/POLITICAL SITUATION IN SIND

1. IN EARLY, PARTIAL, UNAUTHORITATIVE REACTION TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S PROPOSAL TO SUBMIT HIMSELF TO A REFERENDUM, PNA SUPPORTERS IN KARACHI DECLARED THAT THEY WOULD HOLD OUT FOR HIS OUTRIGHT RESIGNATION AND FOR A NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION. TYPICAL PPP SUPPORTERS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THERE WAS NO LEGITIMATE REASON FOR BHUTTO'S HAVING TO ACCEPT A REFERENDUM, BUT ASSERTED THAT HE WOULD BE OVERWHELMINGLY ENDORSED BY THE PUBLIC. REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL AFFILIATION, KARACHIITES IN GROWING NUMBERS HOPE THAT THE REFERENDUM, OR SOME SUCH STEP, WILL PERMIT THE LIFE OF THE CITY TO RETURN TO NORMAL.

2. VIOLENCE WAS LARGELY CONFINED MAY 13 TO THE LIAQUATABAD AREA, WHERE THE HARASSMENT OF THE SECURITY FORCES THAT BEGAN MAY 12 CONTINUED. SMALL PROCESSIONS IN THE BURNS ROAD AND DRIGH ROAD AREAS WERE BROKEN UP WITH PERSUASION AND TEAR GAS. A REPORT THAT ONE PERSON WAS SHOT IN LIAQUATABAD MAY SIMPLY HAVE DUPLICATED THE STORY OF A SHOOTING THAT TOOK PLACE THE DAY BEFORE. ALTHOUGH THE DAYTIME CURFEW WAS ANNOUNCED TO EXTEND FROM 0800 TO 1400 AND FROM 1600 TO 2000 MAY 14, THAT
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ANNOUNCEMENT WAS AMENDED AT MID-DAY BY CANCELLATION OF THE LATTER CURFEW PERIOD.

3. MUMTAZ BHUTTO CONTINUED HIS SPEAKING TOUR OF SIND, ADDRESSING SEVERAL MEETINGS IN THE HYDERABAD AREA MAY 13. HIS MAIN THEME WAS STILL PRO-ZULFIKAR BHUTTO AND ANTI-AMERICA, BUT HE ALSO TOUCHED ON THE DELICATE ISSUE OF QUOTAS (WHICH ARE DESIGNED

TO ASSURE A SHARE OF GOVERNMENT JOBS AND PLACES IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR RURAL SINDHIS WHO WOULD OTHERWISE LOSE OUT TO KARACHIITES). IN ESSENCE HE SAID QUOTAS ARE ESSENTIAL BUT HE TRIED TO MAKE IT SOUND AS IF QUOTAS ENSURE FAIR TREATMENT FOR BOTH GROUPS. CLEARLY HE IS SEEKING TO REASSERT HIS PERSONAL PROMINENCE IN SIND, AND HE MAY CONCEIVABLY BE CAMPAIGNING FOR THE CHIEF MINISTERSHIP SINCE IT IS WIDELY RUMORED THAT THE PRESENT CHIEF MINISTER, JATOI, IS CONTEMPLATING RESIGNATION. MOORE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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